

ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALWORTH  
MASONIC LODGE, NUMBER 286**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Walworth, Wisconsin Masonic Lodge 286. Throughout this period, the Masons of Lodge 286 have made invaluable contributions to their community and to Wisconsin.

Faith, honor, integrity, responsibility for one's actions, the absolute right to intellectual and spiritual freedom, and self-control are the Masons' core values and principles. After the first Grand Lodge was founded in England in 1717, Masonry's rich history was solidified in America by such patriots as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Paul Revere, and John Hancock. Many would argue that the Masons and Masonry played a significant role in the Revolutionary War and an even more important part in the Constitutional Convention. For 100 years the Masons of the Walworth, Wisconsin Lodge 286 have worked to maintain this tradition and standard of excellence.

Charitable giving is also a large part of Masonry. Along with scholarship and loan funds to assist young people in furthering their education, Masons support many community-based charitable projects. These projects range from donating to children's hospitals and burn institutes built by Shriners, to simple and much needed services such as buying shoes and clothing for disadvantaged children. They have participated in charitable giving with other lodges in Wisconsin through the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation. Founded in 1925, the Foundation has been committed to educating our youth through an educational scholarship fund; caring for our elderly through the Wisconsin Masonic Home Endowment Fund; and doing good works through the Special Donor Advised Funds Program, which allows special donors to have naming rights as well as advisory capabilities related to the fund's intended purpose. Masons have constantly worked to make the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, the Masons of the Walworth, Wisconsin Lodge 286 have served as a model for all Masons for 100 years. Their commitment to God and country, emboldened by their brotherhood, has set a high standard for all Masonic lodges.

H.R. 1048—DISABLED VETERANS  
ADAPTIVE BENEFITS IMPROVE-  
MENT ACT OF 2003**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am introducing H.R. 1048, the Disabled Veterans Adaptive Benefits Improvement Act of 2003. Mr. CIRO RODRIGUEZ, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Benefits, as well as Chairman CHRIS SMITH and Rank-

ing Member LANE EVANS join me as original sponsors.

The Disabled Veterans Adaptive Benefits Improvement Act of 2003 would increase the one-time reimbursement VA may provide to certain severely disabled veterans to assist their purchase of an automobile from \$9,000 to \$11,000. According to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the average cost of a new automobile in 2001 was estimated to be \$21,605.

The bill would also increase the grant to help eligible veterans make adaptations to their homes, which are necessary because of the nature of their disability. The bill would raise the Specially Adapted Housing Grant from \$48,000 to \$50,000 for the most severely disabled veterans and from \$9,250 to \$10,000 for other severely disabled veterans.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation is the right thing to do for our severely disabled veterans so that they may live their lives in the most independent manner possible. I look forward to our colleagues' support of our efforts.

TRIBUTE TO MR. PATRICK  
DiDOMENICO**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Patrick DiDomenico. From 1973 until just recently, Pat served as an elected official for the Town of Clay, New York, first in the role of town counselor and then town supervisor for the past 20 years. This makes him the longest continuously serving town supervisor in Onondaga County history. His long life of public service came to an end on February 8th of this year after a battle with cancer. He was only 65 years old.

Pat DiDomenico leaves behind his love for family and the town of Clay. I knew Pat as a genuinely kind and compassionate man who, when he wasn't smiling, was fighting hand and glove for the betterment of the town of Clay. He always marveled local colleagues with his steadfast ability to create astonishing opportunities and results from meager beginnings and often lopsided opposition. Under Pat's leadership the town of Clay has grown from a small rural community to a suburban township of 60,000 residents. His guidance is a testament to his skillful leadership of small town development. This is exemplified as Clay became the fastest growing town in New York State, growing from 36,274 in 1970 to 58,805 in 2000.

With the excitement of Clay's development, Pat made it a point to create fiscal prosperity for the town while easing the economic burdens of new growth. This is seen in the closing of Clay's landfill and the Three Rivers Project, which has transformed an old industrial area into a prospering tourist and commercial region for the town. His fingerprints can be found on all the major projects taken on by the town, foremost the development of Route 31, the Great Northern Mall and the recent completion of the new town hall. His visionary leadership was the primary root that has branched out into a town the size of many small cities.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have known and worked with a leader who fought so hard

for a town he loved so much. Pat is one of the best civic leaders I have ever had the privilege to know in all my years of public service.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Pat DiDomenico for his endless years of service on behalf of the people of Clay and Onondaga County. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude for all he has done. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends, including wife Patricia and children Anthony, Patrick and Nicole. Pat's leadership will be missed, but his life will not be forgotten.

## RECOGNITION OF DAWN HARDY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dawn Hardy, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1166, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, (1) Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, (2) earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, (3) earning the senior Girl Scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, (4) designing a self development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting, and (5) spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Dawn created a self-esteem awareness program.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dawn Hardy for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

THE HONORABLE JOHN MILLER  
SWORN IN AS DIRECTOR OF THE  
STATE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE  
TO MONITOR AND COMBAT  
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, our former colleague, the Honorable John Miller, who served as a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Washington from 1984-92, was sworn in today by Vice President Dick